

## Public Notice

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**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

Public Notice No.  
CENAP-PLE-21-02

Date  
8 APR 2021

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In Reply Refer to: Environmental Resources Branch

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**ABINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT  
SECTION 566, WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1996  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
ABINGTON TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

Pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has completed a draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) to address the need for erosion reduction and habitat function improvements along the upper reaches of Sandy Run Creek, located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The DEA titled: "Abington Environmental Infrastructure Improvement Project, Abington Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Section 566, Water Resource Development Act" is available for public review and comment. The plan detailed in the DEA addresses the need for erosion reduction and habitat function improvements along the upper reaches of Sandy Run Creek within Roychester Park and Grove Park in Abington Township.

The USACE is proposing stream and habitat improvements to Sandy Run Creek in Roychester Park and Grove Park. In Roychester Park, the USACE proposes to grade and stabilize the banks of Sandy Run Creek, replace and re-locate a sanitary sewer line, replace two in-stream culverts, and plant native plants in riparian and upland portions of the park. In Grove Run Park the USACE proposes to remove an existing concrete lining, disassemble existing gabion baskets, grade bench cuts into the stream banks, install a new steel footbridge, grade a new tributary stream which will receive hydrology from a re-directed a stormwater outfall, and plant native riparian and wetland plants.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a draft Environmental Assessment has been developed for this project and is being circulated to the appropriate State and Federal agencies; local, State, and Federal officials; and private organizations.

Impacts to Water Quality have been evaluated in accordance with the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of the Clean Water Act and are not adverse. USACE is designing the project to provide a net increase in aquatic resources, functions, and services, and to meet the terms and conditions of Nationwide Permit 27 (Aquatic Habitat Restoration) and therefore will qualify for the associated section 401 Water Quality Certificate that has been issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). This determination is in the process of being coordinated with PADEP. In addition, the project will comply with Title 25 Pa. Code Chapter 102, Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management regulations.

In accordance with the procedures outlined in Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, USACE has determined that the project will have *no effect* on threatened or endangered species. Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) records indicate no known impacts to threatened and endangered species and/or special concern species and resources within the project area. Therefore, a *no effect* determination has been made for this project and no further consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended by P.L. 96-159 is required.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The National Marine Fisheries Service has confirmed that no EFH is present in the project area, and therefore no further consultation under MSFCMA is required.

The USACE, was in consultation with the PASHPO, the Tribes and other Consulting Parties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations, 36CFR800. A Phase I A/B Cultural Resources Investigation was conducted within the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE). No historic properties were found, and no additional comments were received.

All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan.

The public and all agencies are invited to comment on this proposal. Copies of the EA and other related documents for the proposed project can be obtained by visiting:

<https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Public-Notices-Reports/>

Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for a public hearing shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

All comments on the work described in this public notice should be directed to [PDPA-NAP@usace.army.mil](mailto:PDPA-NAP@usace.army.mil) no later than 30 days from the date of this notice.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

FOR Peter R. Blum, P.E.  
Chief, Planning Division  
Philadelphia District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

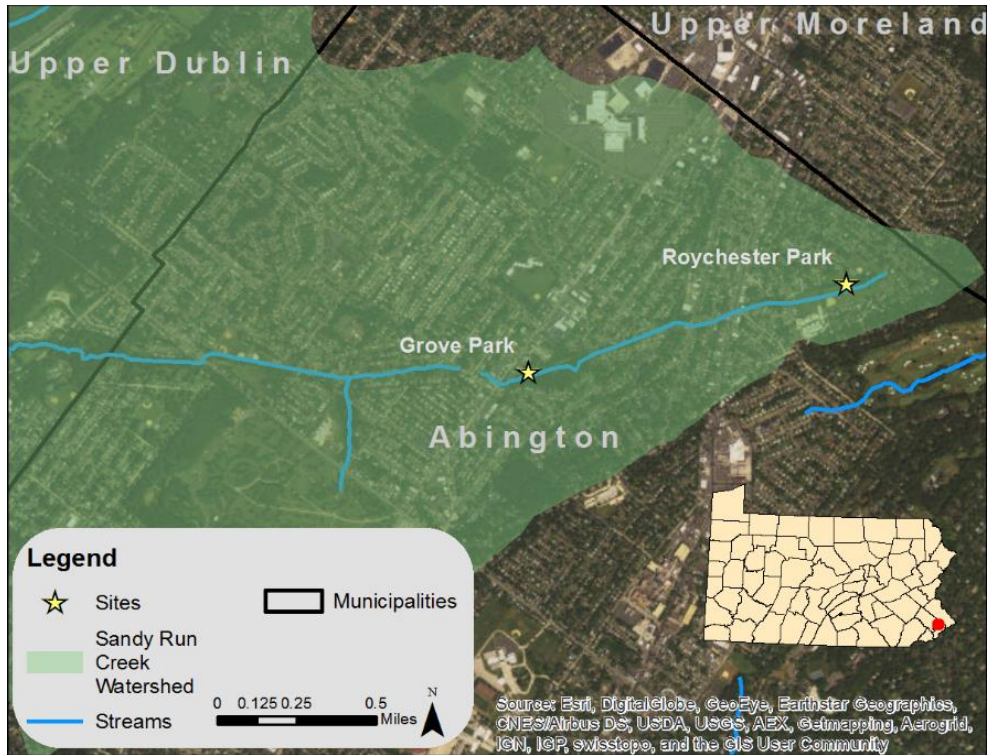


Figure 1: Project Location



Figure 2: Map of Roychester Park showing location of Sandy Run Creek



**Figure 3: Map of Grove Park showing location of Sandy Run Creek**